

This bill will also provide an array of new health services for veterans, ensuring that every veteran has access to the care that he or she deserves. The bill will expand care for veterans in rural areas, because where veterans live should never determine the quality of care that they receive. It will improve mental health support for veterans, because we must respond to traumatic experiences that our men and women in uniform are braving in Iraq and Afghanistan. Finally, this legislation will help homeless veterans find housing, because it is simply unacceptable for our veterans to risk their lives for our country and return home to live on the streets.

Mr. Speaker, our men and women in uniform have assumed the responsibility of protecting us and the values that we cherish as American citizens; we, then, have a responsibility to them. We must provide them with support they need to live healthy and financially stable lives upon returning home. This bill will do just that. I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting S. 1963.

**HONORING THE STATE CHAMPION  
BOLIVAR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM**

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating the Bolivar Central High School boy's basketball team for winning the 2010 Class AA State Championship.

Less than a year removed from the state semifinals, Bolivar Central High School faced off against their league rivals at Middle Tennessee State University on March 20, 2010 for the State championship. After hundreds of hours of practice and hard work the Tigers were rewarded as they secured the school's third Class AA state championship in a 72–62 win over Liberty.

This recognition reflects a dedication to practice, their teammates and their unrelenting commitment to excellence. The team building skills acquired by working together through the highs and lows of the season will benefit these young men for a lifetime of success.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking the parents, Coach Rick Rudesill, faculty of Bolivar Central High School and again congratulating the members of the 2010 State Championship team. I am sure this is not the last we will hear from this talented group of young men.

**RECOGNIZING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. MARY'S ACADEMY**

**HON. TOM MCCLINTOCK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's Academy in Grass Valley, California. Since its first day, St. Mary's has provided outstanding educational opportunities to the children of Nevada County.

The Academy was founded in 1859 by Father Thomas J. Dalton, Pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Grass Valley as a school for the growing Nevada County area. The Academy has served as an orphanage, a finishing school for girls, a high school, and a grade school. Today the school offers kindergarten through eighth grade education.

As our community gathers to celebrate this auspicious occasion, I am proud to recognize 150 years of service and excellence and thank those who have worked to keep the Academy open and thriving.

**COMMEMORATING 40TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY**

SPEECH OF

**HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 21, 2010*

Mr. LUJÁN. Madam Speaker, it would be easy to get depressed on Earth Day, when the challenges to saving the world just seem to keep growing.

Still, right in Santa Fe's backyard, people are making strides simple and ambitious to live lighter on the Earth.

That is what the Santa Fe New Mexican said today on Earth Day.

And that is where we are making a difference—with efforts large and small.

We have groups like Santa Fe Youthworks—building homes that use less energy and empowering at risk students.

Families are caulking their home and using more energy efficient light bulbs.

Too often we miss signs of progress amidst the great work that remains to be done like taking on climate change, diminishing energy resources, and polluted lands and water. But every day each of us can, and must, make a difference toward a cleaner world.

**HONORING THE LIFE AND  
ACHIEVEMENTS OF REV. BEN-  
JAMIN LAWSON HOOKS**

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 20, 2010*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1271 and to mourn the loss of the former president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Mr. Benjamin L. Hooks.

Mr. Hooks led the NAACP at a time when civil rights legislation began to have its greatest impact. The vote had been secured, equal facilities were legally required and the right to an equal education had finally been confirmed through court action.

Benjamin Hooks had already seen the benefits of the fight for civil rights that he helped lead. Before taking over the NAACP, Hooks was President Nixon's choice to head the Federal Communication Commission as that body's first Black commissioner.

So, when he took over at the NAACP, many believed the fight was over and the impact of the NAACP had declined.

Benjamin Hooks knew that the fight would never end, as long as injustice remained in this world. When he left the NAACP in 1992, the membership who believed along with him, fought along with him, and who join me in mourning his loss, had grown by hundreds of thousands of Americans.

His service to his country and to the NAACP was not the birth of his activism. Even as a young man, Benjamin Hooks fought for equality.

Hooks served in the Army during World War II, guarding prisoners of war. In his hometown of Memphis, these prisoners would have more rights than he did. So Hooks began fighting for those whose rights had been left behind.

For 16 years, he practiced law in Memphis, became a minister and served as the first African American criminal court judge in the state of Tennessee.

During his tenure at the FCC, Hooks pushed for more minority leadership of media outlets. Minority employment in broadcasting grew from 3 percent to 15 percent during his tenure, according to the Associated Press.

After retiring from the NAACP, Hooks stressed that wealthy and middle-class African Americans should give time and resources to those who are less fortunate. He served as pastor of Middle Baptist Church and president of the National Civil Rights Museum, both in Memphis. He also taught at the University of Memphis.

His lifetime work was so critical to the Civil Rights movement that in 2007, Hooks received the nation's highest honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, from President George W. Bush.

So today, it is with a heavy heart that I mourn the loss of an American leader and legend, Mr. Benjamin Hooks.

**COMPREHENSIVE IRAN SANCTIONS,  
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND  
DIVESTMENT ACT OF 2009**

**HON. JOE BACA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 26, 2010*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise to support the passage of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability and Divestment Act.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, if allowed on its present course, is well on its way to obtaining nuclear capability. Experts say it could be in the possession of a nuclear weapon in less than a year.

Since 1995, several U.S. regulations have been enacted to pressure Iran's economy, curtail its nuclear advancement and curb the government's support for jihadist militant groups. They have not been adhered to; no firms have yet been sanctioned.

This legislation will pressure persons violating Iran Sanction acts and other accomplices of the National Guard in pursuing uranium enrichment and oppressing religious and human rights.

Nuclear terrorism is one of the greatest threats to American security. Safeguarding nuclear materials from terrorists is absolutely critical to international peace and stability.

This legislation provides the much needed teeth and Presidential authority necessary to deter this regime's nuclear intentions. Timing